VACAVILLE, CALIFORNIA April, 2017

THE VVRC WELCOMES YOU

The Vaca Valley Radio Club has proudly served the Northern Solano County Area since 1988. We pride ourselves in providing a friendly place for radio amateurs to meet and improve their operating skills.

We participate in public service events throughout the year and are always ready to assist with communications during times of emergency.

Browse our website for more information about our club. If you have any questions please e-mail us at w6vvr@w6vvr.net or call 707-448-5665 for assistance

The Repeater is Published by the Vaca Valley Radio Club, PO Box 143, Elmira, CA 95625-0143, An ARRL Affiliated Club. Founded 1987, Chartered 1988. General Meetings: 2ndThursday of each month at 7:00 PM See map on last page.

Wheelchair accessible

Visit the Repeater online courtesy of Bob K6HEW at: w6vvr.net

Club repeater in Vacaville:w6vvr.net 145.470 MHz(-) pl 127.3

The W6VVR net call is Tuesday evenings at 8pm on the club repeater. All are invited to participate in this weekly meeting on the air. 73!

Additional local repeater
WV6F 440.025(+) pl 127.3

2017 Officers

President: Frank Garay KJ6RWQ
VP:Doug Hollowell KJ6VHE
Treasurer: Bob Hewitt-K6HEW
Secretary: Brian Hagen-KK6BXP
Board of Directors:
Ruff Gunn KD6DME
Arthur Miller KI6UXE
Kevin Stow N6VLF
Bob Hawkins KM6BXZ

APPOINTED POSITIONS
VVRC Net Control Chairperson
Club Activities Chairperson-Frank Garay-KJ6RWQ
Newsletter Editor-Jerry Bowen, KJ6SCC
Newsletter Publishe/ Distributor-Bob Hewitt, K6HEW

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President's Message

So I'm sitting here pondering what to say in this months President's message. Jerry Bowen is very good at reminding me that it's needed and when it's due. Thank you Jerry. By the way let's take a moment to say BRAVO to Jerry - KJ6SCC - for doing such an awesome and informative newsletter for this club each and every month. You take a look at our newsletter and just imagine what goes into getting it done. It ain't easy folks, and I'm sure all club members appreciate the effort, so thank you Jerry! I also wanted to thank our club member, Bryan - KB0A for the awesome presentation he gave us last month. It was outstanding! Keep in mind guys that if you have a presentation you'd like to share with the club, please reach out to our VP, Doug - KJ6VHE and get on his list - we need you!

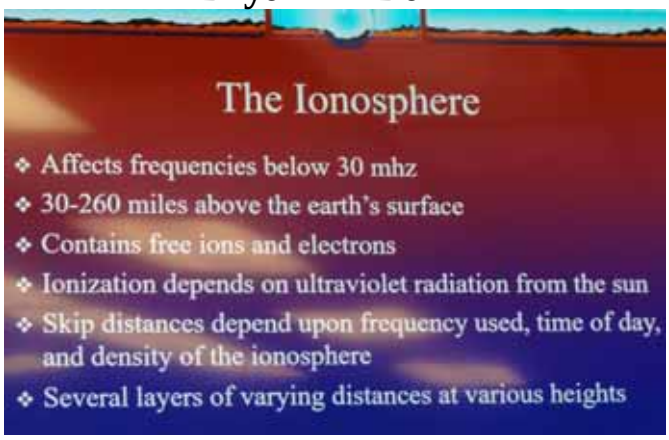
It was my consideration of the newsletter and all that goes into it that inspired me to write this months message. I ran the net last week as it was my turn and, as is my normal routine, I printed the most recent roll call to prepare for it. Then I counted our members and see that we're just about at 40. Wow. 40 members. New members keep coming into the club. Now it's not like the flood gates have opened or anything, but we continue to have new members join the club, check in on the net and show up at the meetings. A smile crossed my face. It felt good to see that. Now that I muse on it for it minute though I asked myself, why? Why does it matter that the club grow? Why do we feel good when the club grows? Why is club growth important to us?

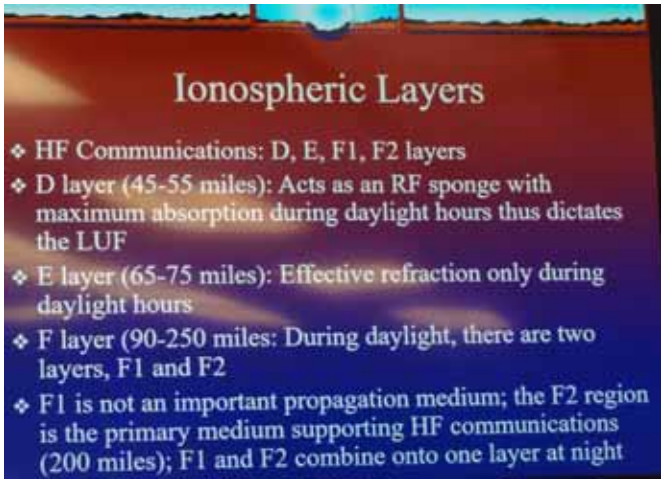
The answer to that is probably different for everyone to some degree, but for me it's pretty simple. I was at one of our meetings a year or so ago and we were having a conversation and one of our members, Skip - AF6HC, said something to the effect that one of the things he found most important in the club came down to one word - Fellowship. Fellowship. I have to say that's probably it for me. I enjoy the fellowship with have with each other when we're at the meetings, or on the net, or the net-plus, or our other activities such as our fox hunt we're doing right now. Today it goes even beyond actual physical fellowship. Thanks to "General Jason" - KM6FAK, we've got social media working for us, again, promoting what? Fellowship. Example - I was in the "Mt. Vaca W6VVR" Facebook group today and saw a post from one of our members, Bruce - N6THN, where he shared a diagram of an 80m/40m antenna. Nice, how cool is that? What's more is someone else made a post into that group, who's not a club member as far as I can tell (yet!), about a crazy contest that's going on where, if you can prove you made a QSO with Australia or New Zealand, at night on 10m at 5w or less using a bedspring as your antenna, you'll win $5 worth of beer. Yes it's a legit "contest" being provided by NY7N. Here's the link to get the details: https://www.reddit.com/r/amateurradio/comments/60z2av/the_official_ny7n_bedspring_challenge/

What is this activity? Fellowship. It's fellowship amongst brothers of a strange feather. Ham brothers. And as far as I can see the more brothers we have, the more fellowship we'll have, and that's why that smile crossed my face. That's why it's important to me to see the club grow. I hope that's why it's important, at least in part, to you as well. We all have something to contribute in this club and I want to make sure that we all have the opportunity to do that. As more and more members come in we have to stay sensitive to that fact and allow not only our membership to grow, but allow it in such a way that allows our fellowship to grow as well. There's more to our hobby and our club than the technical stuff, there's relationships, brotherhood and what? Fellowship. Let's enjoy it.

Frank KJ6RWQ
I'll see ya on the repeater
73.

Lecture on Propagation by Bryan - KB0A

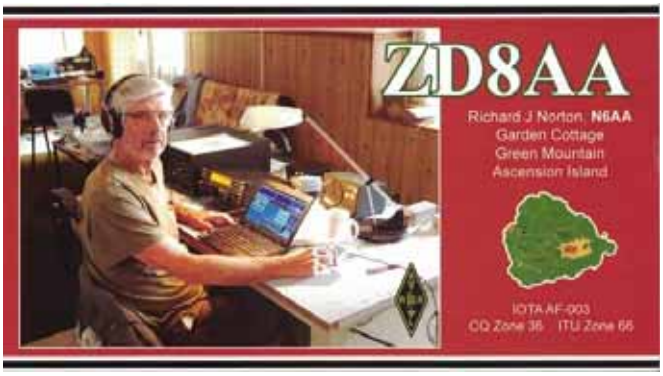




The lecture by Bryan was done in a very professional manner. His skill in using a power point presentation on the big screen at the Nut Tree Conference Room provided the information easy to understand by everyone.

An additional plus it was completed in the allotted time that allowed for the members to gather in group discussions. **Way to go Bryan!**

Latest DX QSLs received by Skip AF6HC



Of course there are hundreds more than this small sample. He enjoys long hours scouring the bands through heavy QRM, noise, and pileups to make these contacts.

Do we have any other club members that spend time with this great hobby that would like to show some of their treasured QSLs? If so, then why not pass them along to be presented in the newsletter.

NET CONTROL OPERATORS

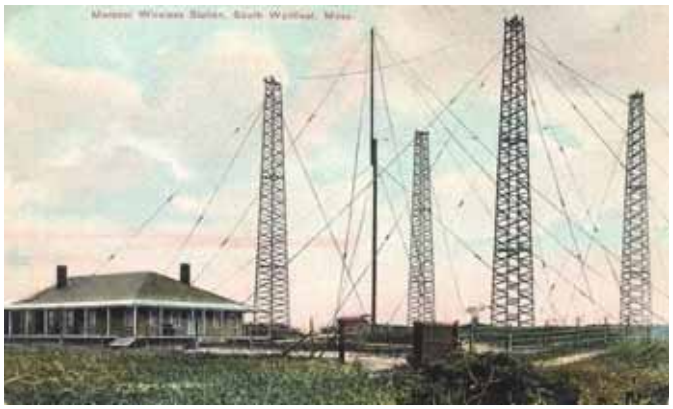
1st week of month-Jerry , KJ6SCC
2nd week of month-Marcus , KI6WDX
3rd week of month-Frank, KJ6RWQ
4th week of month-Brian , KK6BXP
On months with 5 weeks-Hewitt, K6HEW

W1MGY to Host *Titanic* Memorial Special Event

Titanic Memorial Special Event Cape Cod National Seashore to Host W1MGY *Titanic*

Cape Cod National Seashore in Massachusetts has invited organizers of an Amateur Radio special event in April marking the 105th anniversary of the RMS *Titanic* disaster to set up at its Salt Pond Visitor Center. The *Titanic*/Marconi Memorial Radio Association of Cape Cod — W1MGY — is sponsoring the worldwide commemoration to honor the approximately 1,500 passengers and crew who died when the *Titanic* — thought to be unsinkable — struck an iceberg and sank on its maiden voyage from England to the US. W1MGY operators have permission to operate from the national park for 3 days and 2 nights.

Sponsors point out that the 740 Titanic survivors were rescued by the Carpathia as a result of wireless messages sent from Marconi's Wellfleet Station, today preserved within Cape Cod National Seashore as its "Marconi Beach" site. Between April 13 and April 22, the national park will host commemorative events, including the special event, centering on the Titanic disaster and the evolution of wireless communication, 3 culminating in the worldwide International Marconi Day. All *Titanic* events will be held at the Salt Pond Visitor Center in Eastham. Events are free and open to the public.



Marconi's Wellfleet Station in 1913

"We will operate from there on April 13, 14, and 15 until 0527 UTC, the time the *Titanic*'s last radio message was heard by the *Virginian*. The vessel foundered 20 minutes later," said Barry Hutchinson, KB1TLR — the new trustee of W1MGY, which itself recalls the *Titanic*'s MGY call sign. W1MGY, which

has been on the air for past *Titanic* on-the-air events, will transmit a message at the time the ship foundered.

Salt Pond Visitor Center at Cape Cod National Seashore

A reminder

Transmitter Hunt Build Project

Host:N6VLF Kevin

Saturday, April 1 at 9:00 AM

AM Rally on April 1-3 Weekend an Opportunity to Try a Vintage Mode

If you're not familiar with full-carrier amplitude modulation (AM) or have never used it on the air, you'll have a chance during the AM Rally during the April 1-

Collins KWM-A

2 weekend, on the bands between 160 and 10 meters (except 30, 17, and 12 meters) plus 6 meters.

Once the primary voice mode on the ham bands, AM eventually gave way to SSB, a form of AM. Yet AM has remained popular among dedicated radio amateurs who consider it their primary operating

mode. Many modern transceivers include an AM button.

"Whether your rig is software defined, solid state, vacuum tube, hybrid, homebrew or broadcast surplus, you'll be a welcome part of the AM Rally," said Clark Burgard, N1BCG, who is spearheading the event with Steve Cloutier, WA1QIX, and Brian Kress, KB3WFV.

The AM Rally starts on Saturday, April 1 at 0000 UTC (Friday, March 31, in US time zones) and concludes at 0000 UTC on Monday, April 3.

Certificates will be awarded to high-scoring stations in each of five power classes, both for most contacts and most states/provinces worked. The AM Rally website (**http://www.amrally.com**) has full details.

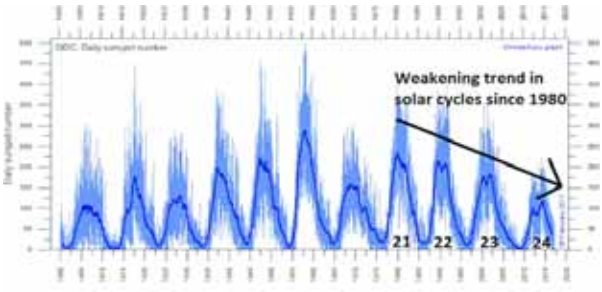
Solar Slump-The Sun has been blank for two weeks straight

Anthony Watts / 17 hours ago March 20, 2017

Overview

The sun is currently blank with no visible sunspots and this is the 14th straight day with a blank look which is the longest such stretch since April 2010 according to spaceweather.com. Historically weak solar cycle 24 continues to transition away from its solar maximum phase and towards the next solar minimum. In April 2010 – the last time there was a two week stretch with no visible sunspots – the sun was emerging from the last solar minimum which was historically long and deep.

There have already been 26 spotless days in 2017 (34% of the entire year) and this follows 32 spotless days last year which occurred primarily during the latter part of the year. The blank look to the sun will increase in frequency over the next couple of years leading up to the next solar minimum – probably to be reached in late 2019 or 2020. By one measure, the current solar cycle is the third weakest since record keeping began in 1755 and it continues a weakening trend since solar cycle 21 peaked in 1980. One of the impacts of low solar activity is the increase of cosmic rays that can penetrate into the Earth's upper atmosphere and this has some important consequences.



Daily observations of the number of sunspots since 1 January 1900 according to Solar Influences Data Analysis Center (SIDC). The thin blue line indicates the daily sunspot number, while the dark blue line indicates the running annual average. Last day shown: 28 February 2017. (Graph courtesy climate4you.com)

THE BIT BUCKET

Update on California's new hands-free driving law

Here's a heavily edited update on California's new hands-free driving law with a little background for reference.

The prior version of Vehicle Code Section 23123.5, while it contained no specific exemption for Amateur radio, effectively excluded Hams by virtue of the relatively narrow definitions of what that law covered.

Assembly Bill 1785 was introduced in February 2016 by Hayward Assembly Member Bill Quirk, whose district lies in the Pacific Division. In its initial form, there was no adverse impact to Amateur Radio, as it applied only to reading, writing and sending text-based communications.

Over the ensuing six months, however, the language was amended five times, with the end result being much broader in scope and including a prohibition of "specialized mobile radio device[s]" that were not hands-free. This opened the door to widely varying interpretations of what might fall under the umbrella of "specialized mobile radio device[s]".

The California Highway Patrol is expected to disseminate guidance within a month or two. Through a Ham contact at the Los Angeles County Sheriff's office, Vice Director Woll had already received a preliminary version of that guidance. It states that using wired radio microphones would not be considered a violation but that using hand-held radios would be cause for a citation. If the final CHP guidance comes to a similar conclusion, it will be a less-than-perfect but, in our judgment, somewhat acceptable conclusion. The deputy also promised to advise us when that interpretation is issued in final form.

Of course, CHP guidance will not filter down to all law enforcement agencies in the state, so citations by local police may still occur, and authoritative evidence of legislative intent will still be important for any Amateur who has to challenge a citation in court.

From the above, it appears that no grass-roots action is needed at this time. However, until and unless we receive authoritative guidance to the contrary, we advise against using handheld radios while driving unless they are equipped with external, corded microphones. As always, avoid any radio usage or other activity whenever you feel it detracts from your ability to control your vehicle fully or to maintain awareness of surrounding traffic.

ARRL Southwestern Division
Director: Richard J Norton, N6AA
n6aa@arrl.org

BREAKING NEWS!!!

This from trusted sources at the FCC

Secret discussions have been taking place concerning licensing of Ham Radio Operators in the United States!

Concerns have been raised about the ease of obtaining licenses and the possibility of the methods for testing potential candidates. Apparently anxiety about the bands becoming overcrowded and the use of insulting and corrosive language on the air was the reason for the secret meetings.

Various methods have been discussed with the eye to make sure candidates have more technical and moral expertise and the inclusion of code tests at all levels of licenses.

Ideas include code tests of 5wpm for technician, 13 wpm for general and 20 wpm for advanced licenses.

Tests for all classes of licenses would be divided into 50 percent multiple-choice answers, 25 math calculations and 25 percent essay questions.

Members of the committee feel that by making the above changes, better-qualified operators would be the result.

Some suggestions made that were early discarded by the committee such as:

Continued on page 8

A 1955 Solid State QRP Transmitter using the Philco SB-100.

Recently my friend Bill, N2CQR posted data on his blog ~ soldersmoke.blogspot.com about a vintage late 1950's early 1960's 10 milliwatt 10 Meter transmitter. That was quite a feat!

But given my Italian heritage I could not let that pass without building my own solid state transmitter using a transistor from 1955. My rig operates on 14.060 and produces 0.4 milliwatts with a 3 volt collector supply using a Germanium transistor from Philco. The SB-100 was one of the first RF transistors that could work all the way past the 10 Meter band. The max Pout was 10 milliwatts —so mine is just loafing along.

I put a 4:1 transformer in the collector lead and as measured across 50 Ohms on the secondary side I am seeing 3.2 Volts Peak to Peak. If you perform the rigorous calculation that transforms into 25.6 Milli-watts or 14 dBm. Now we are cooking! That is better than the rig on Bill's blog.

See Photo addition at the end —just to posit where 60+ years have taken us —and I have personally seen the amazing change to our tools, techniques and toys!

PHILCO

PHILCO SURFACE BARRIER TRANSISTOR

GERMANIUM TYPE SB-100

FEATURES

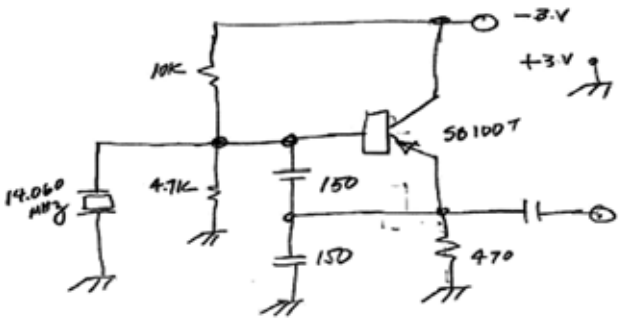
APPLICATIONS

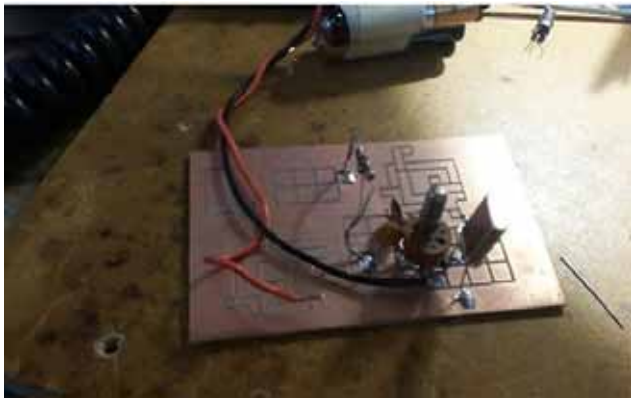
SPECIFICATIONS

PHILCO CORPORATION

Lansdale Tube Company Division

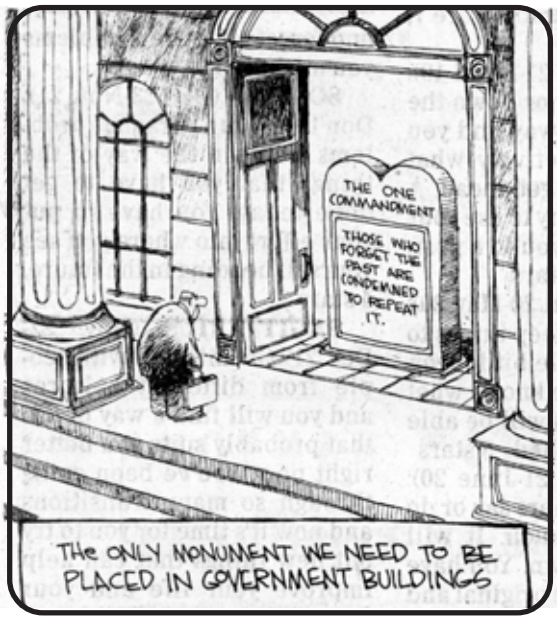
1956 Philco SB100 Transistor Data Sheet: This April 1956 SB100 data sheet documents very early performance data for commercial SBT technology. Note the claimed 45 MC maximum (30 MC minimum) frequency specification here, compared with the 60 MC specification from the TideTech ad shown on the previous page. As Philco engineers gained more experience with the precision etch process, it's likely that better performance and greater consistency was achieved for these unique devices.





This was fun.

73's
Pete N6QW

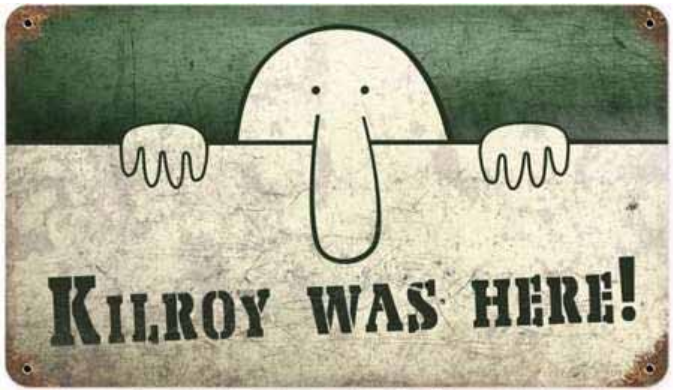


Breaking news continued from page 6

If you believed the Breaking News on page 5

then:

APRIL FOOL



April Fools tradition popularized

Share this:

On this day in 1700, English pranksters begin popularizing the annual tradition of April Fools' Day by playing practical jokes on each other.

Although the day, also called All Fools' Day, has been celebrated for several centuries by different cultures, its exact origins remain a mystery. Some historians speculate that April Fools' Day dates back to 1582, when France switched from the Julian calendar to the Gregorian calendar, as called for by the Council of Trent in 1563. People who were slow to get the news or failed to recognize that the start of the new year had moved to January 1 and continued to celebrate it during the last week of March through April 1 became the butt of jokes and hoaxes. These included having paper fish placed on their backs and being referred to as "poisson d'avril" (April fish), said to symbolize a young, easily caught fish and a gullible person.

Historians have also linked April Fools' Day to ancient festivals such as Hilaria, which was celebrated in Rome at the end of March and involved people dressing up in disguises. There's also speculation that April Fools' Day was tied to the vernal equinox, or first day of spring in the Northern Hemisphere, when Mother Nature fooled people with changing, unpredictable weather.

April Fools' Day spread throughout Britain during the 18th century. In Scotland, the tradition became a two-day event, starting with "hunting the gowk," in which people were sent on phony errands (gowk is a word for cuckoo bird, a symbol for fool) and followed by Tailie Day, which involved pranks played on people's derrieres, such as pinning fake tails or "kick me" signs on them.

In modern times, people have gone to great lengths to create elaborate April Fools' Day hoaxes. Newspapers, radio and TV stations and Web sites have participated in the April 1 tradition of reporting outrageous fictional claims that have fooled their audiences. In 1957, the BBC reported that Swiss farmers were experiencing a record spaghetti crop and showed footage of people harvesting noodles from trees; numerous viewers were fooled. In 1985, *Sports Illustrated* tricked many of its readers when it ran a made-up article about a rookie pitcher named Sidd Finch who could throw a fastball over 168 miles per hour. In 1996, Taco Bell, the fast-food restaurant chain, duped people when it announced it had agreed to purchase Philadelphia's Liberty Bell and intended to rename it the Taco Liberty Bell. In 1998, after Burger King advertised a "Left-Handed Whopper," scores of clueless customers requested the fake sandwich.

Valley of the Moon Amateur Radio Club

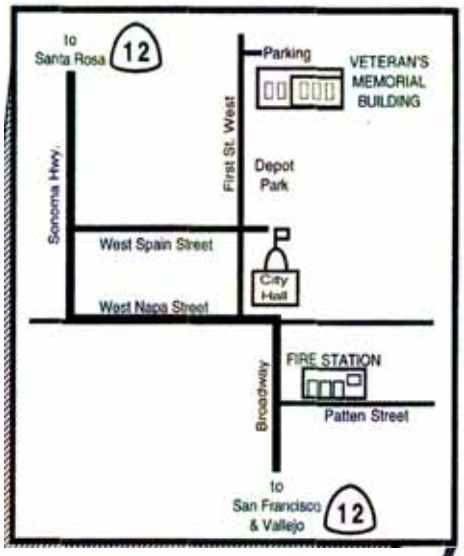
presents

HAMFEST 2017

Saturday, April 29th,
8 am to 12 noon

Featuring

- Swap Meet
- Breakfast
- VE Testing Session
- Station Demos
- Fox Hunt



PLUS: special exhibit of vehicles that support emergency communications
Radio Control helicopter using 70cm.
On the air demo of FreeDV digital voice on HF

Sonoma Veterans Memorial Building
126 First Street West
Sonoma
For info: 707-935-7441

Admission: FREE
Breakfast: $8.00
Talk-in on 145.350 MHz (88.5 pl)
for flyer and map: www.vomarc.org

VVRC Online Renewal

For added security, the online renewal process for the Vaca Valley Radio Club has recently been changed.

In order to renew online you must access the renewal page from the web site home page.
Got to http://w6vvr.net/
Use the "About Us" dropdown menu and select "Membership Application".
This will present you with the application form.
If you are renewing your membership you only need to fill in the name portion of the form. The rest of the form is used for new members. You can, however, use the other fields to make any corrections to your information on file.

Once the form is completed fill in the box at the bottom with the computer-generated characters. This helps keep robots from filling out the form and cluttering up the club's mail box.

When you click on the submit button, you will be taken to the PayPal shopping cart page. This is the page where you can add items to your "shopping cart". When you add an item to the cart, you will be taken to the checkout page. Please consider adding an optional donation to the repeater fund in addition to your dues. This is done by clicking on the "continue shopping" link in the upper right hand corner of the checkout page. Three donation amounts are available. You can add as many of these amounts to the cart as you wish.

Once your "shopping" has been completed you can check out and make your payment. You do not need to have a PayPal account in order to make a payment. They will accept other forms of payment such as credits cards as well.

If all you are doing is making changes to your information, you do not need to make any payment. Just return to the home page when you get to the shopping cart page.

Bob, K6HEW

PLEASE RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

VACA VALLEY RADIO CLUB, INC.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION / RENEWAL FORM

Please Print & Fill in Completely — July 2016 — Dues are payable annually

FCC Name: _____ Call Sign_____
Name Badge Name:_____
Street: _____
City: _____Zip: _____
Phone: (_____) _____-_____OK to Publish ?(_____)
License Class: _____ ARRL Memeber ?(_____)
E-Mail Address_____
FAMILY Member (Spouse or Children)
Name: _____ Call Sign_____
License Class: _____ARRL Memeber ?(_____)
Name: _____ Call Sign_____
License Class: _____ARRL Memeber ?(_____)
Name: _____ Call Sign_____
License Class: _____ARRL Memeber ?(_____)

MEMBER Dues --------- $25.00_____
Each Family Member -- $ 2.00_____
Student ---------- $ 5.00_____
Repeater donation ----------_____

Total----------_____
Paid by CASH: ____ Check #_____
DATE:_____

Mail to : Vaca Valley Radio Club, PO Box 143, Elmira, CA 95625-0143